UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/526
17 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, and the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Slobodan Milosevic, adopted at the conclusion of their discussions in Moscow on 16 June 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

98-17122 (E) 170698 170698

/...

Annex

Joint statement by the President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, and the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Mr. Slobodan Milosevic

The Presidents reaffirm their position of principle on the necessity of preserving the territorial integrity and respecting the sovereignty of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and condemn all forms of terrorism, separatism and armed activity which affect the civilian population.

In an effort to stabilize the situation in Kosovo and Metohija, the Yugoslav side announces its willingness:

- To resolve the existing problems by political means, based on the equality of all citizens and national communities in Kosovo;

- In line with this goal, to continue without delay the negotiations between representatives of the State and representatives of Kosovar Albanian political parties, which were begun by President Milosevic and Mr. Rugova, leader of the Kosovar Albanians. Negotiations on all of the problems in Kosovo, including forms of autonomy in accordance with internationally recognized standards, shall be pursued continuously according to the timetable established by the parties with a view to achieving significant and speedy progress;

- To refrain from taking any repressive measures against peaceful populations;

- As a means of strengthening confidence-building measures, to guarantee complete freedom of movement throughout the territory of Kosovo. No restrictions shall be imposed on diplomatic representatives of foreign countries and international organizations accredited to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia who wish to learn about the situation;

- To guarantee free access to the above-mentioned territories by humanitarian organizations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and to allow the unimpeded entry of humanitarian supplies into those territories;

- To allow the free return of all refugees and displaced persons on the basis of the programmes agreed upon with UNHCR and ICRC. State assistance shall be provided for the reconstruction of homes which have been destroyed;

- To the extent that terrorist activities are halted, to reduce the presence of security forces outside the areas in which they are permanently deployed;

- To announce the willingness of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to begin negotiations with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) on receiving the mission sent by that organization to Kosovo and on the reinstatement of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a member of OSCE.

Both Presidents stated their firm intention to develop multilateral cooperation in the interest of the peoples of the two countries and of peace and stability in Europe.

Moscow, 16 June 1998